



DEP orders landfill closed within 10 days

TRENTON — State environmental officials yesterday ordered the closing, within 10 days, of the Kin-Buc landfill in Edison Township, New Jersey's last and disposal site for liquid chemical wastes.

The state order comes after years of protests by environmentalists claiming the 30-acre site is a major source of ground water contamination of the nearby Raritan River.

It also follows repeated calls for a complete shutdown of the facility by Edison Township officials — particularly Mayor Thomas H. Paterniti — who charged that the landfill posed a potential danger to the health and welfare of the community.

In announcing the order, Beatrice S. Tylutki, director of the solid waste administration within the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), noted that failure to close the landfill within 10 days could result in a maximum fine of \$1,000 a day.

During the intervening 10 days state officials have requested that a detailed plan be submitted showing how the shutdown will be achieved in a manner that will seal off the area to prevent further contamination of ground waters in the area.

Contacted yesterday, Tylutki said Kin-Buc — which is owned by Scientific Inc. of Scotch Plains — is the only remaining landfill that receives liquid chemical wastes in New Jersey.

She added that the volume of wastes received at the landfill is "tremendous," and estimated the current liquid chemical and hazardous wastes received at the landfill exceed 50 million gallons per year.

Contacted at the Edison Laboratory of the Environmental Protection Agency this morning, William Librizzi, head of the Surveillance and Analysis Division, said he expects EPA to announce legal action against the landfill "imminently."

Noting that "between 75 and 100" separate samples of the air and water around the landfill have been taken by EPA on a continuous sampling basis in recent months, he said the tests included samples from "wells drilled on and around the site."

Referring to oil spills reported at the landfill site last January, and again in April, Librizzi said his agency has "definitely passed this information along to the Coast Guard for enforcement."

Although a "spill prevention plan" was submitted by the landfill operators to the EPA earlier this year, Librizzi said it did not meet the agency's requirements and was rejected.

While EPA has not statutory authority to regulate landfills, per se, it does have the ability to move against air and water pollution that may stem from a landfill site.

Earlier this week a state appeals judge ordered the controversial landfill reopened after Edison Township police, acting on orders by township officials, closed the landfill under provisions of a recently passed local law.

Although state officials have not disclosed any plans for alternative disposal of the chemical wastes that would no longer be accepted at Kin-Buc, Theodore O'Neill, county solid waste administrator, has been preparing an "emergency response" to such a situation in recent months.

Judge delays

Solid waste still OK at Kin Buc

By CHRIS PECK

News Tribune staff writer

EDISON — Kin-Buc Inc. was scheduled to be open for business today to receive solid waste but closed to chemical waste under orders of the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Marvin Mahan, chairman of the board at Kin-Buc, said last night the landfill operators had been granted permission to accept the refuse but not the chemicals, which have stirred much of the controversy leading to the state closing order.

Mahan said he was made aware of the stay on the DEP order to close the landfill completely, by Ted Schwartz, Kin-Buc's attorney.

A meeting between DEP and Kin-Buc officials is scheduled for early this week to discuss "a different procedure for handling the chemicals" as an interim mea-

sure at the landfill, Mahan said.

Beatrice Tylutki, director of solid waste administration for the DEP, ordered the landfill on July 8 to close within ten days, citing violations of DEP regulations, and "severe environmental problems."

As of Friday, Miss Tylutki said the landfill would be closed to the acceptance of all wastes. She could not be reached last night for confirmation of the permission given the landfill owners to accept only solid waste and no chemicals.

Kin-Buc is the only remaining landfill authorized to accept liquid wastes and to dispose of some hazardous chemicals by dumping them on top of garbage and allowing the two to mix.

Plans for a more sophisticated chemical treatment plant to be constructed by Kin-Buc at an adjoining site are still before the

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Kin Buc gets closing eased

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DEP. The DEP is set to act on the plans this week. The plant and a new landfill would replace the controversial 40-acre landfill on Meadow Road, alongside the Raritan River.

Those plans call for a series of lagoons in which the chemicals would be neutralized, some of which will be dumped at a "scientific" landfill with impervious liners to catch leachate. The remaining substance after the treatment process would enter the Raritan River or the sewer system.

There is no similar facility in New Jersey now, and Kin-Buc officials contend if the landfill is closed, New Jersey's chemical plants will have no viable alternative among the few, small-scale treatment plants in the state.

Mahan said Kin-Buc's industrial customers have not been notified the landfill is closed to chemicals but will find that

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